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SOCIO-ENGINEERING  
PROBLEMS.

AN UNWRITTEN PAPER

ON

"The Lost Symbols and the Noosphere"

As we pass into a new epoch of the  
geological history of the earth- - -  
= the Noosphere, man needs a new  
perspective.....

Layout of Illustrations.....

SOURCE MATERIAL

for the proposed paper  
in the form of an order of service for  
a Unitarian Church

7/7/57

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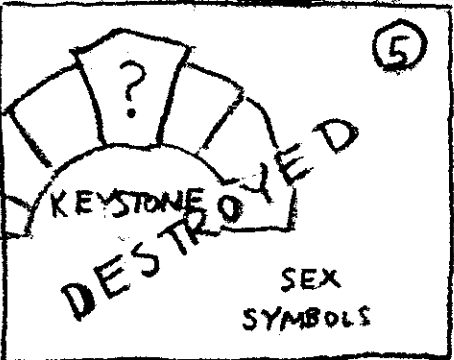
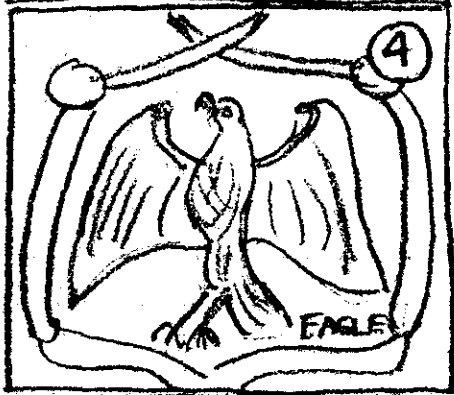
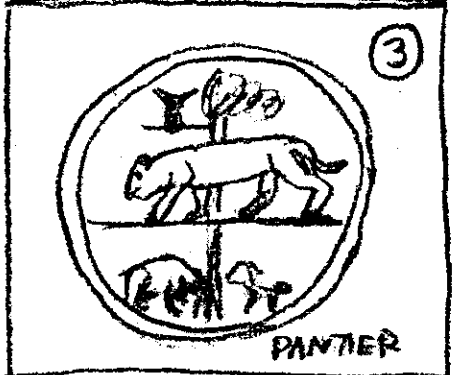
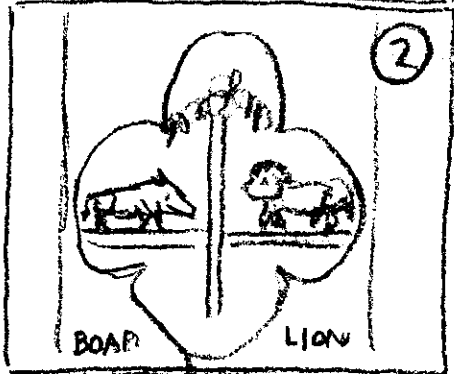
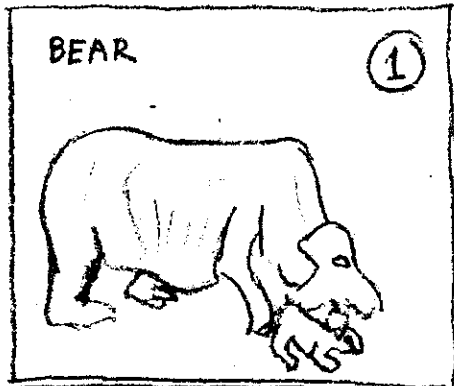
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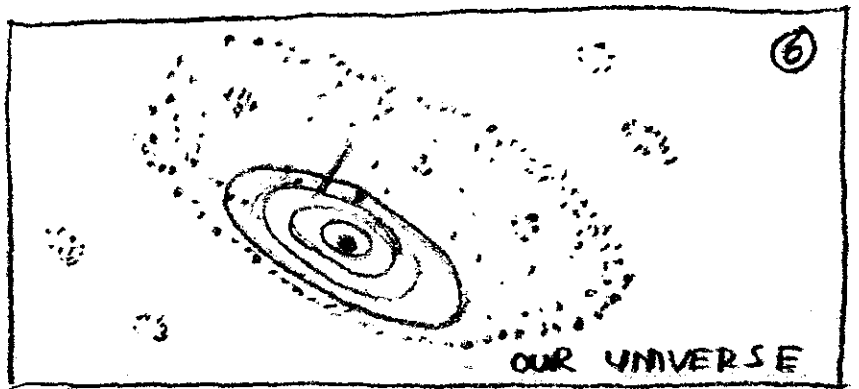
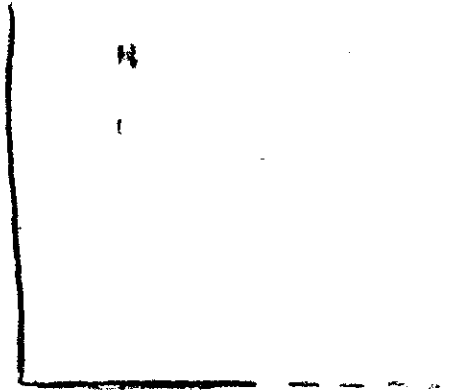
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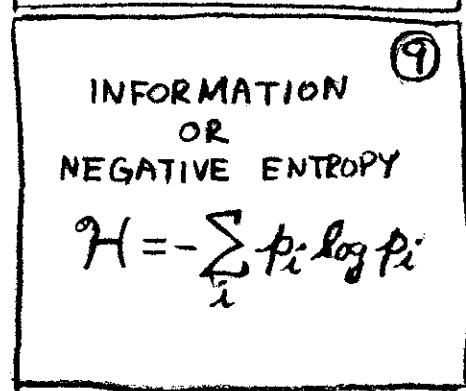
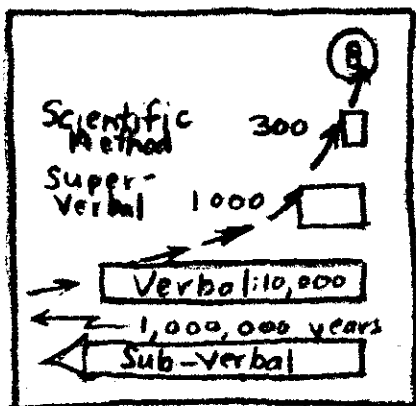
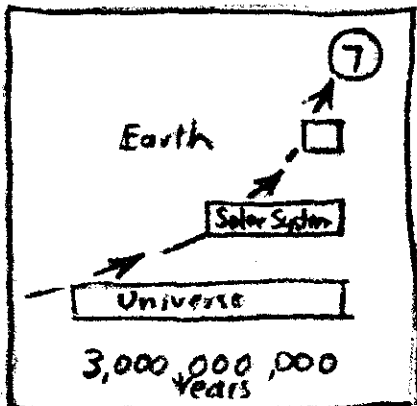
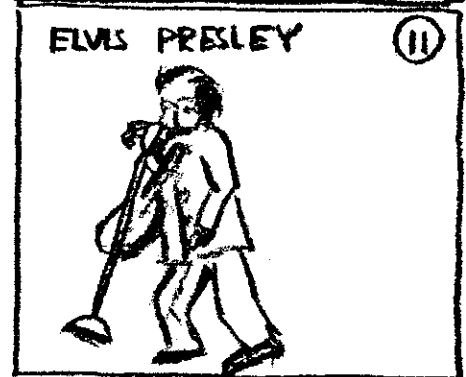
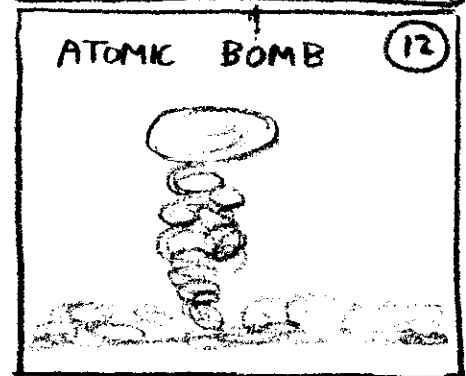
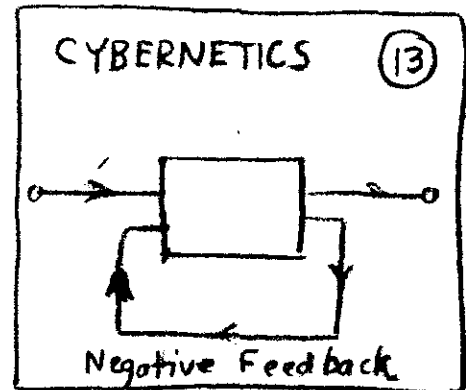
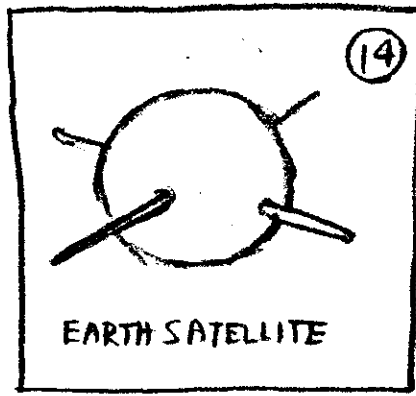
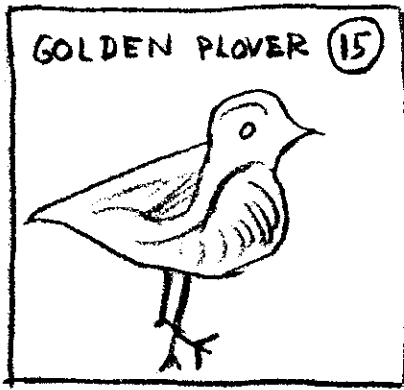
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The lost symbols and the noösphere  
 As we pass into a new epoch of the geological  
 history of the earth -- the Noösphere  
 man needs a new perspective.  
 By F. B. WOOD





ORDER OF SERVICE

First Unitarian Church  
San Jose, California

Summer Service Series  
1957

Sunday Evening

July 7, 1957

"The Lost Symbols and the Noösphere"

The streams of religious activity of the human race have always been focussed by symbols such as great leaders, saints, songs, sacred music, ceremonies, special architectural forms, sacred geographical spots, and symbolic myths. Symbols are not to be taken literally, because the picture of the symbol ~~is~~ is incidental to the thought it suggests. With the early development of science many symbols of the church were discarded when details of the stories of the Bible were found to be inconsistent with the observed facts of natural science. A series of these lost symbols will be projected from filmstrip during the service. *As civilization evolved from one phase to another, people invented new symbols.*

As we pass into a new epoch of the geological history of the earth - - the Noösphere, man needs a new perspective to symbolize the fact that man is important, now he has the power and the responsibility to make geologically significant changes on the earth. What will be the symbols of the new era that will link the myths man believes with the great creative potentialities of this new epoch? Will the symbol of era be an Elvis Presley, a Davy Crockett, or an Albert Schweitzer? Or will some new symbols of man's knowledge of himself and of nature be created?

*As we pass to another phase of our evolution, we will be in the development of symbols to help us understand the world. F. B. Wood writes with great insight from his explanation: "symbols that people find getting out of the world..."*

Sunday Evening Services during July are conducted by the Worship Committee while the Minister is on Vacation.

Order of Service

OFFERTORY - "Hail, Adulation and Praise"

EXHORTATION - "A Book of Life" No. 10 "Praise and Wonder"

Let us, O Father, adore thee ceaselessly throughout creation with singing, dancing and laughing cries, with the whole world of nature in its exuberance and beauty,

1. We lift heart and voice in praise, for the prophets and preachers, with all whose craftsmanship is their song, and all who by their cheer and kindness and good counsel bless others,

2. We lift heart and voice in praise, for the unceasing law by which the universe is maintained, which orders the rhythms of light and darkness, by which the crystals are formed, which keeps the ocean within its bounds,

3. We offer our wonder and our gratitude, for miracles of birth and growth, for the variousness of living things, for the long story of man's emergence, and his great potentialities,

4. We offer our wonder and our gratitude, for a world of good which summons forth man's best, for the inspiring challenge of the ideal, for faith and hope and love,

5. We offer our wonder and our gratitude.

RESPONSIVE READING - No. 30, page 98, Services of Holy Day for use in the Churches of the Free Spirit and Signs of the Spirit, Boston, Beacon Press  
"The Spirit of All the Ages"

HYMN - No. 1 (Revised version of the Yigdal of Daniel ben Judan) (14th century)  
"Praise to the Living God, All Praise to His Name"

FIRST READING

"A History of the Hebrew People" C. F. Keat (1996) vii

The early history of the Israelitish tribes, when viewed in the uncolored light of the oldest records, appears at first quite different from that to which we were introduced by our parents. But reflection soon demonstrates that nothing essential to faith or the Old Testament revelation has been lost. In reality the difference between the present and the earlier view is chiefly one of language and form of expression. The Hebrews were right in seeing God in everything, and attributing all that came to them directly to his influence; but they knew no distinction between the natural and the supernatural. Even the idea associated with the word "natural" was yet unborn, they accordingly classified the most ordinary phenomena of life as supernatural. A pestilence or eclipse was regarded as a superlative miracle. The discovery of natural laws has radically changed our conception of history as well as of Nature.

## FILMSTRIP (SVE-Cathedral no. C754-3)

AND COMMENTARY (based on the commentart of Rev. John Harrell)

## "The Lost Symbols of the Church"

Our past, present and future are expressed in symbolic forms. The lost symbols are those whose meanings are being forgotten yet give us an insight into the transition from the past through the present to the future.

1. Each representation a sermon in itself
2. Bestiary a book of science and moral and religious teachings
3. Bear "licking something into shape"
4. Scientific information in stories often inaccurate, but all was well as long people recognized the picture and knew moral...
5. boar and lion represent evil powers
6. also lion represented vigilance Christians should maintain...
7. Hart a symbol of Christian's desire to know and love God
8. it was thought that the panther had a sweet breath with power of healing
9. horns of the antelope represent old and new testament
10. sometimes the antelope gets his horns caught in a tree
11. sly fox indicates how wary he must be of falling into temptation
12. the deception of the whale
13. sailors deceived by the whale
14. mosaics
15. dragon was killed by St. George
16. unicorn as symbol of the Incarnation
17. carvings
18. Christians are to be harmless as doves, hurting no one by word or deed
19. the rooster calls the hens to share his lucky find
20. how we regain our spiritual sight as the eagle was supposed to regain his sight
21. the pelican-in-her-piety became a symbol of Christ's offering
22. peacock as symbol of immortality
23. foolishness of the owl for loving darkness rather than light
24. grape vine symbolized the Church and its members
25. infinite seeds of the pomegranite a symbol of unity of Church

Supplementary reference: George Ferguson "Signs and Symbols in Christian Art" Oxford (1954)

## SECOND READING -

"Life has Also a Tomorrow" C. G. Jung (1920)

Quoted by Patrick Mullahy in Oedipus Myth and Complex Grove Press, 1955. p. 144

A person is only half understood when one knows how every thing in his came about. Only a dead man can be explained in terms of the past; a living one must be otherwise explained. Life is not made up of yesterday only, nor is it understood nor explained by reducing today to yesterday. Life has also a tomorrow, and today is only understood if we are able to add the indications of tomorrow to our knowledge of what was yesterday. This holds good for all expressions of psychological life, even for symptoms of disease.

HYMN - No. 546 (Frederick William Faber, 1849)

"Faith of Our Fathers, Living Still"

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERTORY

## THIRD READING

"The Biosphere and the Noösphere" W.I. Vernadsky (1943)  
American Scientist, 33:1, p.10fn, Jan.1945

Living matter is the totality of all organisms present on the earth at any one time. It is usually such a totality that is important, though in dealing with the effect of man on the processes of this planet, a single individual may be of importance. The living matter of the earth may be regarded as the sum of the average living matter of all the taxonomically recognizable groups. Each of these groups is said to consist of homogeneous living matter.

Living matter exists only in the biosphere. This includes the whole atmosphere, the oceans, and a thin layer in the continental regions, extending down three kilometers or more. Man tends to increase the size of the biosphere.

The biosphere is distinguished as the domain of life, but also, and more fundamentally, as the region where changes due to incoming radiation can occur.

In our country that First World War resulted in a new, historically unprecedented, form of statehood, not only in the realm of economics, but likewise in that of the aspirations of nationalities. From the point of view of the naturalist (And, I think, likewise from that of the historian) an historical phenomenon of such power may and should be examined as a part of a single great terrestrial geological process, and not merely as a historical process.

The geological evolutionary process shows the biological unity and equality of all man, Homo sapiens and his ancestors, Sinanthropus and others; their progeny in the mixed white, red, yellow, and black races evolves ceaselessly in innumerable generations. This is a law of nature. In a historical contest, as for instance in a war of such magnitude as the present one, he finally wins who follows that law. One cannot oppose with impunity the principle of the unity of all men as a law of nature. I use here the phrase "law of nature" as this is used more and more in the physical and chemical sciences, in the sense of an empirical generalization established with precision.

The historical process is being radically changed under our very eyes. For the first time in the history of mankind the interests of the masses on the one hand, and the free thought of individuals on the other, determine the course of life of mankind and provide standards for men's ideas of justice.

Mankind taken as a whole is becoming a mighty geological force. There arises the problem of the reconstruction of the biosphere in the interests of freely thinking humanity as a single totality. This new state of the biosphere, which we approach without our noticing it, is the noosphere.

Now we live in the period of a new geological evolutionary change in the biosphere. We are entering the noosphere. This new elemental geological process is taking place at a stormy time, in the epoch of a destructive world war. But the important fact is that our democratic ideals are in tune with the elemental geological processes, with the laws of nature, and with the noosphere. Therefore we may face the future with confidence. It is in our hands. We will not let it go.

SLIDES AND COMMENTARY (Developed by Dr. F. B. Wood)  
 "What will be the Symbols of the Noosphere?"

As we pass into a new epoch of the geological history of the earth - - the Noosphere, man needs a new perspective to symbolize the fact of man's importance. Now he has the power and the responsibility to make geologically significant changes on the Earth. What will be the symbols of the new era that will link the myths man believes with the great creative potentialities of this new epoch?

- 1-3 Mountain Landscapes
4. The Age of the Universe, Solar System
5. Development of Forms of Life on Earth
6. Evolution of Apes, Ape-Like Primates, and Modern Man
7. Development of Sub-Verbal, Verbal, and Super-Verbal Communication and The Scientific Method
8. Characteristic Logarithmic Increase
9. Information Theory
10. Trend of World Power Production
11. Capital Production Analog
12. Cybernetics
13. Monte Carlo Method (Random Walk)
14. Electronic Computers and Accounting Machines
15. Davy Crockett
16. ~~Elvis Presley~~ Elvis Presley
17. Albert Schweitzer
18. Atomic Bomb Test at Bikini
19. Table of Correspondence of Theories of Relationship between Mechanics and Electromagnetic Theory with Nature (Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity)
20. The Golden Plover

HYMN - No. 352 (Jacob Trapp, 1932)  
 "Wonders Still the world shall witness"

Supplementary References

## The Noosphere:

William L. Thomas, Jr., with the collaboration of Carl O. Sauer, Marsten Bates, and Lewis Mumford Man's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth. Univ. of Chicago Press (1956) pp. 86, 104, 106, 107, 109, 110, 801.

## Age of Universe, Evolution, Development of Scientific Method:

F. B. Wood, seminar paper, Univ. of Calif. "The History of Electromagnetic Theory" Jan. 10, 1947 (unpublished)

## Information Theory:

W. Sluckin Minds and Machines London: Penguin (Pelican A308) (1954) pp. 84-87

Colin Cherry On Human Communication Wiley (1957) Chap. 5: On the Statistical Theory of Communication

Scientific American Automatic Control Simon and Schuster (1955) p. 83 Gilbert King "What is Information?" p. 97 Warren Weaver "The Mathematics of Information"

Henry Quastler Essays on the use of Information Theory in Biology Univ. of Illinois Press (1953)

Karl W. Deutsch "Communication Theory and Social Science" Amer. Jour. of Orthopsychiatry 22 pp. 469-483 (1952)

## Cybernetics:

Norbert Wiener The Human Use of Human Beings - Cybernetics and Society Second Ed. Doubleday Anchor (1956)

W. R. Ashby Cybernetics, An Introduction Wiley (1956)

SONG OF EXULTATION (Congregation Standing)

From all that dwell below the skies  
Let faith and hope with love arise;  
Let beauty, truth and good be sung  
Through every land, by every tongue.

Ours be the poems of all tongues,  
All things of loveliness and worth,  
All arts, all ages, and all songs  
One faith, one beauty on the earth.

Amen.

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Love is the doctrine of this church;  
The quest of truth is its sacrament;  
And service is its prayer.  
To dwell together in peace,  
To seek the truth in freedom,  
To serve mankind in fellowship,  
To the end that all souls may grow  
Into harmony with the divine,  
This do we covenant with one another.

BENEDICTIO N

W.S.L. No. 110.

Kenneth L. Patton, 1945

Ours, O men, has been yesterday  
and ours will be today and tomorrow.

Ours, is the world, the universe and life,  
if we will make it ours  
by the largeness and strength of our love

Ours is the commonwealth of man,  
now and tomorrow,  
building and yet to be builded.

Amen.



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August 28, 1957

A Working Paper Draft

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A series of manuscripts on the social relations of engineering and related philosophical questions dealing with the interaction of science and society. Distribution is limited to reviewers and discussion groups for criticism prior to consideration for possible publication.

"THE LOST SYMBOLS AND THE NOÖSPHERE"

As we pass into a new epoch of the geological history of the earth--- the Noosphere, man needs a new perspective. . . . .

A chapter of a proposed book on  
"Communication Theory in the Cause of Man"

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## "THE LOST SYMBOLS AND THE NOÖSPHERE"

### Abstract

These notes on "The Lost Symbols and the Noösphere" were first prepared for a church service and then revised for a seminar on international affairs. It is now proposed that they be edited for use in Chapter 2: The State of Western Civilization of the proposed book Communication Theory in the Cause of Man described in Socio-Engineering Problems No. 65 (12/18/61, and No. 65-A (5/17/62).

The streams of religious activity of the human race have always been focussed by symbols such as great leaders, saints, songs, sacred music, ceremonies, special architectural forms, sacred geographical spots, and symbolic myths. Symbols are not to be taken literally, because the picture of the symbol is incidental to the thought it suggests. With the early development of science many symbols of the church were discarded when details of the stories of the Bestiaries were found to be inconsistent with the observed facts of natural science.

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